THE CONCORD SAUNTERER

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The Saunterer,-2

"Some," says Henry Thoreau in his essay on Walking, "would derive the word from sans terre, without land or a home, which, therefore, in the good sense, will mean, having no particular home, but equally at home everywhere. For this is the secret of successful sauntering. He who sits still in a house all the time may be greatest vagrant of all; but the saunterer, in the good sense, is no more vagrant than the meandering river, which is all the while sedulously seeking the shortest course to the sea. But I prefer the first (see VOL. 1, No. 1)... For every walk is a sort of crusade, preached by some Peter the Hermit in us, to go forth and conquer the Holy Land from the hands of the Infidels."

OPENING DAY

The story is that outdoors, December 10, 1966, was a dull, foggy day. Inside the Lyceum, however, it was a delightful, very busy and colorful world. Between 200 and 300 people streamed through our little building, never a mob, but constant moving clusters of visitors.

In the display area, where will be the glass shelves and doors, was an exhibit case loaned to us by the Concord Antiquarian Society. In it were Thoreau--viana on loan from the Antiquarian Society, and from

Middlesex School, including a Ricketson bust of Thoreau; also a set of artifacts from the Walden cabin site, presented and arranged by Roland Robbins,-bricks, glass and mortar. On the wall above and behind the case was the Sharriff painting of the Bean Field, loaned by Roland Robbins.

On the walls in the lecture room and book shop were paintings and woodcuts by Miss Elizabeth Corey, Mr. Henry B. Kane, and Mrs. Eleanor Moore. Miss Mary Fenn hung her unusual gravestone rubbings of the Alcott family stone, the Slave Jack Stone, and the Scipio Brister stone. Roland also loaned his painting of his reproduction of the Walden cabin, by Timothy Clemmer. On the fireplace mantel was an arrangement by Mrs. Robert L. Moore, of sprigs of bayberries and pearly everlasting from Cape Cod, and small branches of dried leaves and blossoms of wild andromeda from Gowing's Swamp, Henry's favorite wildflower and one of his favorite haunts. Beside it was a bouquet of bittersweet from the Lee Litchfields. Over the mantel hung a panorama photograph of Walden Pond, taken early in this century, donated to the Lyceum by William Towler. The Moore framed color photographs of the andromeda bog, with Thoreau quotations and inset enlargements of the wild andromeda in blossom, hung in the book shop. Many of these items are still in place.

Donated Lyceum Items

A want list, posted on the bulletin board, has brought remarkable response. Among the donations are: an almost new steel desk, chair, and filing cabinets, half of our wall-to-wall carpeting, the cutest yellow love seat you ever saw, book shelves, a vacuum cleaner, and many items from Hawthorne's Wayside, which belonged to Miss Margaret Lothrop, who was born there, and her mother, Mrs. Daniel Lothrop, who wrote FIVE LITTLE PEPPERS. Miss Lothrop's contributions include a set of blue willow ware dishes, a china tea set, table covers

from overseas, a round table for the library, a high-backed rocker, a typewriter table and numerous small very useful items.

Roland Robbins has donated a full-size movie screen. The Rathbuns gave us a wonderful, almost new, slide projector, with a great many cartridges. Miss Raymona Hill, of Pennsylvania, is sending us copies of her color slides of the Texas House and many Concord scenes. The Coffin family of Concord has donated a memorial to a friend in the form of the two volumes of the recently published color photograph reproductions of Audubon's BIRDS OF AMERICA, plus a painting yet to be selected. Leonard Kleinfeld has donated a great many items to sell in the book shop, including new and old books and some large albums with Henry D. Thoreau engraved on the front cover in gold letters. Malcolm Ferguson has put many old books for sale in the shop.

CHRISTMAS VACATION

Many cards came in from all around the country with interesting greetings. The farthest came from Wade Van Dore in Florida; the most apropos was a card designed by Newt Caldwell, of New Jersey, depicting Henry skating on the cove at Walden. We have asked Newt if he will either reproduce the card, with and without the holiday greeting, or permit us to reproduce it, to sell as a Thoreau greeting card in the book shop.

Two Canadian Thoreauvians came down for several days of the vacation period: Russell Ready, this year's President of the Thoreau Society, and Miss Dora Kelsey Woodhead. Miss Woodhead brought us her famous blue-eyed Thoreau painting, life size, which she copied in color from the 1856 B. W. Maxham daguerrotype, which she exhibited for the first time at the Thoreau Society meeting in Concord for the 1962 centennial program. Miss Woodhead has kindly loaned us this painting until

her return this coming July. It presently hangs in the big display niche, supplanting Roland's Bean Field which he had to take home to his bare wall.

Russ Ready brought with him his framed photostat copy of the Walden Pond survey drawn by Henry in 1846, which shows the pond's depths at regular intervals. This reproduction Russ has donated to the Lyceum, a most appreciated gift which is very much at home here.

Among the countless visitors in and out of the Lyceum during Christmas vacation was Gerald Edwardsen, of Malden, who by a fluke of fate missed being our Board Treasurer. Several California and mid-western people were in, most of them visiting friends or relatives in the area. They shared our tree,-a white pine from the edge of the Estabrook Country. The white pine is not the best of Christmas trees, but it was unusually dainty in the lecture room bay window, framed on each side by the soft pine-cone-and-needle pattern of the drapes. Many families in Thoreau's day used the white pine for a Christmas tree, as spruces and balsam fir do not occur naturally in Concord, the climate bei being a little too warm, though transplanted spruces do very well on lawns.

SAYS HENRY TO HIMSELF

We hope to develop a regular skating group, going out from the Lyceum. Bob Wild, an active Thoreauvian and skater from Newtonville, will lead skating groups whenever he has time. Says Henry about this subject: "Jan. 14, 1855. Skated to Baker Farm with a rapidity which astonished myself, before the wind...Jan. 15. Skated to Bedford. It has just been snowing, and this lay in shallow drifts or waves on the Great Meadows, alternate snow and ice. Skated into a crack, and slid on my side twenty-five feet...Jan. 31. I skated about 12 miles (on the river) to Wayland...Feb.1...I skated up the river so swiftly yesterday...past the old

kingdoms of my fancy...Feb. 3. Skating through snow. Skated up river with T. (Tappan), in spite of the snow and wind...It was a novel experience, this skating through snow, sometimes a mile without a bare spot. In many places a crack ran across our course where the water had oozed out, and the driving snow catching in it formed a thick batter with a stiffer crust in which we were ripped up and measured our lengths on the ice... We went up the Pantry Meadow...and came down this meadow again with the wind and snow dust, spreading our coat-tails like birds, though somewhat at the risk of our necks if we had struck a foul place. I found that I could sail on a tack pretty well, trimming my skirts."

Correction on Dr. Walter Harding

In the November, 1966, NEWSLETTER we had some of our facts distorted. Walter has been a full professor for years; what's new is that on September 1, 1966, he was appointed University Professor, a new rank in the larger universities which is above full professorship. He is the first one of the 13,000 faculty members of the entire State University of New York to receive this honor. It is similar to an endowed chair in a private university, and permits him to teach as much or as little as he wishes, with all sorts of research facilities for writing. We are so proud of Thoreau's Walter Harding. Imagine this happening to one of the nation's top, if not THE top, Thoreauvian! He sets us a star to look up to, as did Henry.

Birds Out Back

Snow was already on the ground before we had time to put up any kind of feeder. But we made it in time to get our name on the annual nation-wide Christmas census list, even though we could boast for that day only two Juncos, two Bluejays, one Chickadee, two House Sparrows and several Starlings.

An old fashioned shadow box was found recently by the present residents of the historic old Barrett Farm in Concord, in their dump. In the box were stuffed, mounted specimens,-a Redwinged Blackbird, an Indigo Bunting, a Bobolink, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and an exotic species,-a Java Sparrow. These were given to the Lyceum, as we have both state and federal permits to possess such specimens for study purposes.

Bird Chart

We are putting together a Bird Chart for Concord; this will be a sort of visible index of the species seen in town during the year, in chronological order. Such a list becomes exciting when migration time approaches. The Chart will be done in collaborotion with Miss Rosita Corey, who keeps a Concord bird tally most of the year. As Christmas census was taken in this area this year on January 2, that will give the chart a big boost for 1967. The chart will hang in a conspicuous place in the Lyceum, where anyone may come in and see it, or add to it.

LECTURES

Roland Robbins gave the Lyceum's first lecture, the evening of Opening Day. The evening of January 7, Dr. Dorrit Hoffleit, Yale Observatory astronomer, and Director of the Maria Mitchell O servatory on Nantucket Island, gave a talk, "Astronomy in Thoreau's Time." illustrated with fascinating slides from star telescopes. Despite an ice storm in progress many people turned out for the program. Dr. Hoffleit had found an amazingly derogatory quotation about astronomy by Thoreau. Since he was a frequent night walker it is puzzling that he didn't seem to be more interested in the stars, especially since they played so prominent a part in mythology. He does mention them, but he was relatively silent on the subject.

One of the lectures of the immediate future will be on Iceland, by Eric Parkman Smith. This will be a 3-D adventure, with Eric passing out special eyeglasses to the audience.

COURSES

Due to the recent long seige of carpentry work we are getting a late start in the year for class work, but we are making several courses available and prospective students are already signing up as we go to press.

We are offering a Monday noontime Writer's Workshop, to be given by Miss Dorothy Hewitt of the Adult Education Institute of New England. Jason Korell offers Journalism, Thursday evenings. Natural History Literature, Field Natural History, and Nature Writing will be available at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Wednesdays and Thursdays, given by Mary Sherwood. Field classes for children will be led by Mrs. Marjorie Roderick, beginning at 9:00 Saturday mornings.

SUNDAY EVENING OPEN HOUSE

There will be Open House every Sunday evening, for readings from Thoreau and the other Concord authors and from your favorite poetry. This is an informal gathering; come early or late, between 7:30 and 9:00.

Clippings

We can use all you send us. Walter Harding says he is sending us a bushel of them. When you cut out new ones write on them the name of the paper, town, state and date. Especially the DATE.

From YOU

Sally Carrighar, one of our Honorary Trustees, writing from Jersey, the Channel Islands, native land of Thoreau's grandfather, says, "He (HDT) is one of the best of our American heroes and surely deserves the kind of memorial you are now providing."

Accompanying the movie screen from Roland Robbins was a letter, including this: "I want to wish the Thoreau Foundation and the Thoreau Lyceum much success and progress not only in 1967, but through many years to follow. At long last, Concord's native son, Henry D. Thoreau, once again has a roof over his head.

Russell Ready left us this encouraging note when he was here in December: "May I, on behalf of the Thoreauvians of Canada, congratulate you on the success of the Thoreau Lyceum. With the advent of the New Year, may we wish you complete success in your efforts to achieve the inspiring objectives of your organization."

From Michael Nadel, Editor of THE LIVING WILDERNESS: "This is to assure you that the Wilderness Society is very much interested in the success and well-being of the Thoreau Lyceum, and was pleased to have the opportunity of sending its charter dues for a membership. ....I share this interest...and Thoreau will not suffer from want of recognition in THE LIVING WILDERNESS." He is printing an item by Wade Van Dore about the Lyceum in this next issue, in which will be a review by Paul Oehser of four books about Thoreau.

Roland E. Shaie, of Lexington, who enjoys the items from out-of-print material in CONCORD TOWN, says: "I was delighted to read...that the Lyceum has opened.. I am enclosing my check...and hope it includes receipt of the monthly "Concord Saunterer." Please start me with the first number."

BOOK SHOP

Thoreau, H. D. Norton Editions. $5.50
CAPE COD, Illus. by H. B. Kane 1951
WALDEN " " " " " 1951
THE MAINE WOODS " " " " 1950
Harding, Walter
THE DAYS OF HENRY THOREAU $7.95 1966
A THOREAU HANDBOOK $4.50 1959
Derleth, August
CONCORD REBEL. A Life of Henry D. Thoreau. '62
Bode, Carl. Ed. THE PORTABLE THOREAU. 1965 $3.37
Brewer, Wilmon. STILL MORE ADVENTURES 1966 $3.00
Also other volumes of Dr. Brewer's available
Thomas, Wm. S. FIELD BOOK OF COMMON MUSHROOMS
1948 $5.00
Peterson, Robert Tory. A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS
1947. $4.95
Peterson, R. T. HOW TO KNOW THE BIRDS 1957 $3.50
Stekkek, Edwin WILDFLOWERS AND HOW TO GROW THEM.
1966 edition $4.50
Taylor and Hamblin HANDBOOK OF WILDFLOWER
CULTIVATION 1963 $6.95
Kane, Henry B. THE TALE OF A POND 1960 $3.39
THE TALE OF A WOOD 1962 $3.39
THE TALE OF A MEADOW $3.39
Allen, Arthur A. A BOOK OF BIRD LIFE 1961 $9.75
Marcher, Marion W. MONARCH BUTTERFLY 1960
Juvenile $2.75
Palmer, E. L. FIELDBOOK OF NATURAL HISTORY
An encyclopedia; eastern U.S. $11.95 1949
Rogers, Julia THE SHELL BOOK 1951 $8.50
Women's Parish Assoc. THE MEETINGHOUSE COOKBOOK
Concord, Mass. $2.50 1966 rev. ed.
Fenn, Mary R. TALES OF OLD CONCORD $2.00
CONCORD TOWN Back copies, with many Concord stories.
20¢ each, set of 7 for $1.00
CONCORD TOWN, Vol. 2, n.1. Feature's Hawthorne's
Wayside. 50¢ includes postage.
CONCORD BIRDS AND BIRDING, by Rosita Corey 25¢

Book Shop (Continued)

PEACE OF MIND THROUGH NATURE, by Burt Newman.
Outdoor essays and reflections $1.00

Other BOOKS are available. Tell us what you are looking for.

Stationery: 10 sheets, 10 envelopes. $1.00
Large, green on white
1. Balsam Apple
2. Wild Andromeda with Thoreau quote
small, green on green, or green on white
Wild Andromeda wreath enclosing a Thoreau quote

Post Cards: In color. 5¢ ea., 6 for 25¢
The Minuteman
The Wayside
Orchard House
The Manse
Emerson's House
First Parish Meetinghouse
Wright Tavern
Old North Bridge, summer, or winter
Walden Cabin Site
Thoreau Rowse drawing, black and white
Many animals and birds in color

Henry B. Kane wood cuts
White-footed Mouse $10.00
White-breasted Nuthatch $15.00

Elizabeth Corey Prints
Several of Miss Corev's paintings hang in the lecture room and book shop; they range in price from $20 to $50, and include "The Crows," "Canada Geese Standing," "The Grouse," "Owl," "Snow Buntings," and and "Giraffe." There is no charge to come in and view these pictures.

Book Shop (Continued)

Partridgeberry Bowls, and Terraria $3.00 to $10.00; the containers are crystal, including brandy snifters. We prefer not to ship these.

Postage and Handling: Add 25¢ for each single book, add 10¢ for each additional book. Add 10¢ for each package of stationery, 5¢ for one to 6 cards, 10¢ for every 12 cards. We pay postage on art works.

MAY FESTIVAL

Nassau Community College, Garden City, N.Y., is planning a Henry David Thoreau Festival for May 12, 13 and 14. Several Thoreau Lyceum Honorary Trustees and members are being invited to give talks on Thoreau. Plans are underway to take many items from the Thoreau Lyceum to the Festival so that visitors may see actual objects from the new, alive, Thoreau Center.

We will have more details for you on this in the next NEWSLETTER. Mark these dates on your calendar.

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We hope your color sense is more pleased than otherwise by the variation in color paper in this issue. We didn't plan it this way; just ran out of this special non-see-through-paper of any one color.